

While exploring the bush at Christmas Hills, some thirty-five kilometres north-east of Melbourne, on 31 January 1987 and again on 7 February 1987 (maximum temperatures were 35°C and 40°C respectively) I found two relatively large congregations of butterflies (over twenty in each) at the entrances of two disused gold mine-shafts located at the bottom of a steep, sheltered, and ferny gully. The adults, most of which were males, were not active but at rest in the quiet shade. Most butterflies were situated on several large, moist rock slabs forming the entrances of the mine-shafts, though some were delicately poised on the fronds of various ferns. They sat remarkably still; with their wings closed they beautifully decorated the excavated rocks. All butterflies were quite oblivious to my presence as I could approach them with extraordinary ease, even pick them up with my fingers! This non-active, resting behaviour was in contrast to their familiar habits of soaring high about the tree canopy.

Temperatures at the entrances of the mini-shafts were considerably cooler than elsewhere, and as no adults were seen flying about the nearest

peaks and ridges they were clearly seeking refuge from the prevailing hot northerly wind and taking advantage of the sheltered, and cooler conditions provided by the mine-shafts. This resting behaviour, as opposed to flying, would no doubt reduce body moisture loss, and apparent preferences for the coolest sites may indeed suggest that imperial whites are not adapted to very hot conditions.

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Naturalist Note

The Smokey Mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*) Outside Victoria

BY G. MAYO*

This note reports the capture of an adult specimen of Smokey Mouse *Pseudomys fumeus* in Namadgi National Park, ACT. This animal was trapped near the summit of Mt. Kelly at an altitude of 1,800 metres in February, 1987. While the animal was released, A. Cockburn confirmed its identification from the photographs taken.

This is only the second specimen of this species to be trapped outside Victoria; the first being near

Bulls Head in the Brindabella Ranges, some 37 kilometres north of Mt. Kelly. Subsequent intensive trapping of the Bulls Head site has been unsuccessful (Osborne and Preece, 1986).

The capture of Smokey Mouse on Mt. Kelly is also noteworthy in that it is the highest altitude at which this species has been trapped. (A. Cockburn, personal communication).

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- Osborne, W. S. and Preece, M. A., 1986. Extension of the range of Smokey Mouse, *Pseudomys fumeus* (Rodentia: Muridae), into the Australian Capital Territory. *Australian Mammalogy* 10:35-36.

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